# PRETTY HEIRESS, HELD AS INSANE, FIGHTS TO BREAK FETTERS OF TANGLED LOVE SKEIN

## Uncle of Dorothy Gordon Charges Guardian, Once Her Mother's Sweetheart, Schemes to Win Her Hand and Fortune

LOVE fills the background of the strange case of Dorothy Davis Gordon, pretty heiress to a \$500,000 estate, who is fighting for release from an esane asylum.

Dorothy loves a young man, the sweetheart of school days. In turn, according to her statements, she is beloved by her guardian,

who, though he has a wife, wishes to marry her. And it was this guardian who committed her to the asylum, admit-

ting now that she was not insane at the time. Of this guardian, now past middle age, Dorothy says; "He said he loved me as he had loved my mother before me. He visited me and took

me in his arms. He kissed me. He posed as my devoted friend." And it is William F. Jardine, guardian of the wealthy girl, who is striving to keep her behind the gray walls of the McLean Asylum at Waverley, Mass.

Jardine was an admirer of Dorothy's mother, who married Gordon thirteen years after the birth of their child.

A legal battle is now under way in

the Suffolk County Superior Court, with John D. Gardiner, her uncle, leading the fight against Jardine.

The remarkable features of the case have aroused the Massachusetts Commission on Mental Diseases, and Miss Gordon's imprisonment in the Suspected that the young couple were planning to clope.

Dorothy frequently spoke of her twenty-first birthday when she would be free from Jardine's guardianship. Whether that had any influence on the later course of events Jardine, the guardian, lone knows. asylum will be investigated to the last detail.

#### Early Life Was Spent tn Midst of Luxury

Since babyhood, Miss Gordon was accustomed to all the luxuries that money commands. Her early girlhood was passed in a Riverside Drive apartment. She was idolized by her father and mother.

In contrast with that environment is her present plight, where in the last year she has known all the terrors of the strait-jacket and the "hot-pack" treatment. She has been strapped to her asylum bed for four-teen hour at a time.

Institution. There Dorothy has remained since, while Jardine administers the business that Jardine never made an accounting of the girl's inheritance. Jardine has applied for reappointment as guardian the ground his former ward is inis her present plight, where in the teen hours at a time.

And wante she frets in the narrow confinement of an asylum room her estate is charged \$50 a month for a who lives on Harrison avenue, Baldroom she never saw in a house that Jardine, her former guardian, rents many thrilling dramas on stage and for \$65 a month. That is one of the screen," she said, "but I have never minor details uncovered in the last

The love-filled background of the sirl's life goes before her birth, when Frederick D. Gordon, her father, was reching a comfortable middle age, and his towel-supply business was making him told.

and the coats to hotels, restaurants and barber shops.

He carried his first stock in a mar-

ket-basket and rented them to a few patrons, laundering the supplies as they became soiled. His little business grew, he hired assistants and he found he

meded a bookkeeper,
Elizabeth A. Gardiner, then seventen years old, answered his advertissuent and got the job. Shy, brownerel, demure, she applied herself to Mer work, not realizing, at first that he had infatuated Gordon. His wife was a few years older than he, and her mature charms could not balance the piquant beauty of the little book-

### Couldn't Get Divorce

But Kept Up Two Homes Dorothy was born January 31, 1900.
Gordon asked his wife to divorce him.
She refused. Then he began the life of a man with two homes. His exbookkeeper. Dorothy's mother, was
maintained in a Boston apartment until 1902, when Gordon moved with
he to a Rivarsida Delva apartment in to a Riverside Drive apartment in New York. For eight years they were happy in the unconventional "love happy in the unconventional heat" and they moved to Buldwin, Long

Gordon's wife died in 1913 and a week later Gordon and his former bookkeeper were married. Dorothy, then thirteen years old, was kept in orance of the belated ceremony and be circumstances of her birth. Plitting through those years were the gures of Jardine and his wife, a forer manicurist, who visited Gordon's love nest." Mrs. Jardine and Doroby's mother were friends, and that fact mitigated the dislike Gordon felt

In April, 1914, Gordon died sudenly, in his sixticth year, after a paralytic stroke. His widow became president of the Gordon Supply Company and the gave one share of stock to Jardine, and made him vice president of the company. She leaved a

read, seen nor heard of a more diabolical plot to ruin a young girl and secure possession of a fortune than the plot which his placed Dorothy Gordon in an asylum for the insane.

"When our witnesses are heard in Hoston the full details of the plot will be revealed. It will be shown how Dorothy, popular, healthy, happy, normal in every respect, in March, 1921, suddenly dropped out of the life of a fashionable finishing school, the House in the Pines, at Norton, Mass., and a few days later was weeping hopelessly and helplessly in the McLean Insane Asylum near Boston, surrounded by dangerous lunatics.

Will Call Old Teachers

Will Call Old Teachers

Teachers and many pupils in the school will testify Dorothy was perfectly normal during her two years' course in the House in the Pines. So will Harriet lavels, an old housekeeper for the first Mrs. Gordon.

"Harriet lived in Norton and often walked and talked with Dorothy. She knew the circumstances of Dorothy's were known as Mr. and Mrs. be Jardine, and made him vice president of the company. She leased a mansion in Newton, Mass., and the Jardines went to live with her.

Dorothy was sent to a fashionable school and lived the normal, healthy life of a girl interested in her studies and outdoor life, with plenty of girl friends and an allowance that satisfied her youthful desires.

Will Call Old Teachers to Prove Girl Sane
"Teachers and many pupils school will testify Dorothy was pormal during her two years' to the House in the Pines. So will her youthful desires.

### Mother Was Killed

### in an Auto Accident

Pavis. an old housekeeper for the hist Mrs. Gordon.

"Harriet lived in Norton and often walked and talked with Dorothy. She knew the circumstances of Dorothy's birth and, although the old housekeeper is loyal to the memory of her old mistress. Mr. Gordon's first wife, she wants justice done to the persons responsible for Dorothy's present condition." In the summer of 1915. Mrs. Gordon based a home at Nantasket Heach. On August 30 of that year, while she was motoring with friends. the chauffeur lest control of the ar, it crashed into a pole and Mrs. Gordon was killed.

She left no will and Dorothy naturally turned to Jardine in the shock of ar second and greater bereavement. Iardine was made her guardian and he became president of the supply company.

Grief may have shaken the nerves of the sixteen-year-old girl, but at any mas. Jardine, in 1916, took her to a materium. He said she went as a will have she returned home she met want Labor Day, 1918.

When she returned home she met while was a student at the Massar-thusias And now a resident of Atlanta, Ga. And now a resident of Atlanta, Ga. It was a student at the Massar-thusias Institute of Technology. The supple became interested in each they corresponded frequently.

The control of that year, while she was so wants justice done to the persons responsible for Dorothy's present condition.

Mrs. Gardiner's gray-blue eyes became serious. She continued in the same quiet, frank tone:

"You know. Dorothy was an illegitimate child. My husband's sister. Elizabeth, went to work for Mr. Gordon when she was seventeen. She was a beautiful girl. He was a middle-aged man, a self-made man. He started in life with a basket and a few towels which he rented, collected, washed and replaced.

"From this beginning grew the great towel supply company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple became interested in each supply company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple company that bears his name. The head office is in Boaton, the supple comp In the summer of 1915, Mrs. Gordon

But the fact stands out that less than two months after Dorothy reached her majority, her former guardian bundled her into a taxicab, although he has a machine of his own, and her-ried her off to the McLean Hospital. Carried Off to Asylum

Despite Her Protests Jardine admits that when the girl recognised the institution she beat her fists against the cab door and window in a vain effort to escape. Counsel for Gardiner, the girl's uncle, maintain she was not legally committed to the institution.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon, mother of the heiress

read, seen nor heard of a more diaboli-cal plot to ruin a young girl and se-cure possession of a fortune than the placed her in an apartment in Boston.

"They were known as Mr. and Mrs. Gordon. I did not even know they were

Jardines Took Charge



Miss Lena Jardine, wife of Dorothy's guardian, who, it is charged, connived with her husband for a divorce that he might marry Dorothy

here that she was killed in August, 1915, in an automobile accident. dine mailed a notification to my hus-band. The letter would not have been received in time for Mr. Gardiner to have attended the funeral, but fortun-ately he had been informed by the chief f police at Nantasket of the accident

and arrived in time.
"My sister-in-law left no will. The property thereupon went to Dorothy. The child—she was then fifteen years and seven months of age—chose Jardine as guardian. She was, of course, in-fluenced in this selection and my husband was powerless to fight Jardine

"Most subsequent events have been told. Others will be told this week in court in Boston. Our fight will go on until we are certain Dorothy's rights to live her own life and enjoy her own property are protected."

### Girl Didn't Know Uncle

It was not until last Tuesday that Dorothy learned of the legal battle her uncle is making for her. Gardiner and his attorney. John F. Sheehan, went to the McLean Hospital. Dr. Frederick

The three men saw Dorothy in her chamber. They talked with her for twenty minutes. They told her of the progress of the case. They obtained from her new evidence of a startling a week out of her own money for a nurse a week out of her own money for a nurse a week out of her own money for a nurse

diner and Spencer declined to tell. But wasn't proper care?"
Mr. Sheehan said:

Jardine replied:

sent it when the hearing is resumed, mutilate herself, couldn't lf we make it public it may give the out or pull out her hair. other side a chance to cover up in some Dr. Packard, who previously had re-

Dr. Packard, who previously had refused permission to any one but Jardine to see the imprisoned heiress, agreed that the men were entitled to the privileges they asked. He said that henceforth Dorothy would be available for interviews by Sheehan, Spencer and Gardiner and that all the records in connection with her case would be turned over to them on request.

He added that he would co-operate to assist in bringing about a satisfacture.

Without Legal Right

Jardine admitted he had no papers committing Dorothy Gordon to the asylum. She had had no examination with her committenent in view. Sheehan the nasked:

"Yet she was twenty-one? You had no warrant of law? Did Dr. Packer in any form of words say she was in-

Girl Whisked Away to Asylum When Love Affair Was Opposed

WASN'T MAD, MAN ADMITS AT INQUIRY

"Love-Child" of Wealthy Man Can't Get Her \$500.000

"Dr. Packard was so astounded as the revelations that resulted from the interview that he offered to do everything he could to help us, irrespective of the demands or wishes of Mr. Jar-

"As far as Dorothy's appearance, she looked splendid. Were anybody to see her in the street today it would never be suspected she was anything but a normal, happy, healthy school girl. She seemed in excellent spirits and health."

There was a dramatic scene as Dr. Packard opened the door of Dorothy's room. The girl was seated on a low chair beside the low bed to which, it has been admitted, she was strapped for months at a time by means of the translature of the senious commission translated. ingenious camisole straitjacket.

was reading.
She rose when the three men entered the room. Her uncle stepped forward and extended his hand. He 'Hello, Dorothy. We are here to

help you."

At this point Dr. Packard withdrew from the room and closed the door. The rest of the interview was be-hind closed doors.

Mr. Sheehan was seen after the interview. He said he would make public the result of the interview as soon as certain things had been investigated.
"Was any move made to have Dore-thy taken out of the hospital?"
"No," admitted Sheehan.

#### Hospital Under Fire

After the Disclosures The Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, Representative in the Legislature, has filed a complaint against the McLean Hospital in connection with the confine-ment of Dorothy, and requested an immediate investigation of conditions at that institution. His complaint was filed with the Commissioner of Mental

Diseases.
Sawyer charged that the attitude of chusetts institutions into disrepute; McLean officials had vio the law in their interpretation of the statute; that Dorothy Gordon went to be released, and that her treatment has brought on a condition which can not be bettered without change of treatment.

The day before that visit Sheehan had harried Jardine on the witness stand before Judge Pevy, in Suffolk County Superior Court. It was there that Jardine denied he had planned to

marry the heiress.
"Did you have any understanding that you were to divorce your wife to marry Dorothy?"

"Did you have an agreement with your wife to that effect?"
"No," again came from the witness, stirring a bit in his chair.

#### Guardian Is Uneasy Under Lawyer's Grill

Later in the examination he looked a bit worried. He kept one hand in his pocket, the other occasionally tapped the railing before him or played with his mouth. Now and then his voice rose a bit shrilly and petulantly as he answered Sheehan, who worried at him with questions like a big gray buildog worrying a rag.

Jardine had admitted that he erred
in a previous examination when he said

he had not seen Dorothy Gordon under restraint after taking her to the asylum. He said he had twice seen her tied to a bed with a sort of sheet.

Then Sheehan demanded fiercely:
"Did you take any steps to find out

how many times she was restrained? Would you be surprised to learn that she was restrained for six months?"
"Perhaps at night," replied Jardine,
"And you stood for that, Jardine?"
"Yes," said Jardine, "It was to

her interest. What this evidence is Sheehan, Gar-

r. Sheehan said:
"It is important enough to warrant is important enough to warrant osiderable investigation before we prent it when the hearing is resumed, mutilate herself, couldn't put her eyes

### Girl Was Incarcerated

tary commitment."
"Oh-h-h-h, you didn't know the law,

Was Trying to Aid Her

H. Packard, the superintendent, allowed them to see the girl. They were accompanied by Joseph T. Spencer, Gardiner's personal attorney.

to assist in bringing about a satisfactory adjustment of the case.

"The girl is rational." Mr. Shechan said after the interview. "She talked normally throughout the entire convergation.

"And you didn't know of the law that you had to have her examined and committed?"

"There Jardine, up to this time a to assist in bringing about a satisfac- sane?

"She was more than pleased to see her Uncle-Jack.
"We have discovered that Dorothy has discovered, and Doctor Packard discovered, that Mr. Jardine has misled all of us in many things."

"Is the girl sane?" he was asked.

mitted?"

Here Jardine, up to this time a strangely pliable sort of witness, seeming to give the very answers Sheehan would have desired had Sheehan been prompting the answers, became a tribe resentful. He retorted:

"It isn't the law in a case of volume commitment."

Gordon. I did not even know they were not married.

"All the time they were in New York and Baldwin Mrs. Gordon had but one steady visitor. This was Mrs. Jardine, the former manicurist. Sometimes Mrs. Jardine brought her husband, manager of the Charles H. Davis Jewelry Supply Company.

"Mr. Gordon disliked the Jardines intensely. I myself once heard him order Mrs. Jardine to get out of his house and never return. These quarrels, however, were always patched up.

"In April, 1914, Mr. Gordon, then a man of sixty, died suddenly after a John D. Gardiner, uncle of Dorothy, aiding in her battle for freedom "In April, 1914, Mr. Gordon, then a man of sixty, died suddenly after a stroke of paralysis. My sister-in-law and Dorothy inherited the entire estate.

"Jardine had had nothing to do with

"In 1918 Mrs. Gordon died in Boston. Then my husband told me his sister and Mr. Gordon had been waiting for her dearly smooth Mr. Gordon and my sister month Mr. Gordon and my sister month Mr. Gordon and my sister home here. "In December, 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon month Mr. and Mrs. Gordon month Mr. and Mrs. Gordon moved to Newton, then began to realize on the early cook a summer place at Nantasket with her. It was ness at and Mrs. Gordon. The my husband told me his divided to Mrs. Gordon of the company, of the high many husband told me his sister and Mr. Gordon had been waiting for her dearly company and made him vice president. Her Story on Stand

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. His influence was saked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same."

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Girl Wants to Tell

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. His influence was saked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same."

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same?" her was asked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same?" her was asked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same?" her was asked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same?" her was asked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same?" her was asked.

"It isn't the law in a case of vol. Stand in the potent that the young woman is same?" her was asked.

"It a same?" her was asked.

"It is the girl same?" her was asked.

"It is the

Willard Newell, young Southerner, who

was Dorothy's sweetheart

then?" said Shechan, and then, as Jar-dine's attorney made some remark. Sheehan added: